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22 MAY 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: National Intelligence Office for Counterterrorism

FROM: [REDACTED]

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Chief, European Division
Directorate of Operations[REDACTED]
Director of Global Issues
Directorate of Intelligence

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SUBJECT: Terrorist Groups and Activities in Europe

1. Over one third of all international terrorist attacks in 1983 and the first half of 1984 occurred in Western Europe. The greatest number of incidents occurred in France, but with the exception of Norway, Sweden, and Finland, every nation in Western Europe has experienced recent terrorist activity on its territory. Most international terrorism by indigenous West European groups is leftist, anarchistic or separatist in its origins, and in many instances it is conducted to demonstrate opposition to US and NATO policies. Although the number and intensity of terrorist incidents in Italy and West Germany declined as a result of counterterrorist successes in 1982, recent developments indicate a gradual resurgence of indigenous terrorist capabilities in those countries. Perhaps of even greater importance is the use of Western Europe as a staging ground and focal point for much of the terrorist activity undertaken by Middle Eastern groups and nations. Athens probably is the most dangerous center of such activity currently. [REDACTED]

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2. We consider the following groups and nations to be the most dangerous terrorist actors in Western Europe:

- o Iran has agents in Western Europe capable of launching terrorist operations at any time. The recent seizure of Iranian facilities in several West European nations by anti-Khomeini exiles makes the dissident community the most likely target of Iranian state agents, but US and possibly French and British interests could be attacked if the crisis in the Persian Gulf escalates. [REDACTED]
- o Libyan leader Qadhafi has blamed the UK and the US among others for the recent commando raid on his Tripoli headquarters by Libyan dissidents. Although we have not received reliable reports indicating that Libya has selected for reprisal specific targets in Western

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Europe, we believe Tripoli will again attack Libyan exiles. Qadhafi also may attempt attacks on US or UK interests, using either Libyan agents or radical Palestinian or other surrogates. [REDACTED]

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- Abu Nidal's Black June Organization has cells in Turkey, West Germany, France, Spain, and probably elsewhere in Europe, and recently assassinated one of its own members in Cyprus. It has attacked moderate PLO and Arab officials as well as Israeli and Jewish targets for the past ten years and will continue to do so. The group is headquartered in Syria, but may be receiving money from Iran and Libya and could be influenced by those states to target US or Western interests. [REDACTED]
- LARF, the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction, has killed, or attempted to kill, at least five US officials and two Israeli diplomats in France since 1981. Most recently--in March 1984--it attempted to assassinate the US Consul General in Strasbourg. The identity and size of LARF is unknown. The group is likely to strike again. [REDACTED]
- PLO groups continue to plan and stage attacks into Israel and the occupied territories. To date, they have adhered to Arafat's ban on terrorism outside these areas, but the more radical, anti-Arafat groups such as the PFLP-GC, PFLP and DFLP might break ranks and operate in Europe if Arafat's position within the PLO continues to weaken. [REDACTED]
- The leftist Armenian terrorist group ASALA appears to have switched its focus to Turkish diplomats in the Middle East, especially in Iran. It probably is not a threat to US interests in Western Europe. [REDACTED]
- There are recent indications that the Red Army Faction (RAF) in West Germany is rebuilding its organization. The RAF has been violently opposed to the US military presence, and we suspect it is likely to remain so. [REDACTED]
- The Marxist 17 November Organization in Greece has claimed responsibility for several attacks against Americans in Athens, most recently for the attempted murder in April of an NCO assigned to JUSMAGG. It has pledged in recent communiques to continue to attack Americans. [REDACTED]

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- o The Marxist Red Brigades (BR) in Italy is continuing to expand, and a number of its components are operational. It claimed responsibility for the mid-February assassination of Leamon Hunt in Rome. Recent BR communiques reflect its opposition to Italian participation in NATO, and to the worldwide influence of Western "imperialism." [REDACTED] 25X1
- o Recent terrorist attacks in Spain may mark the resurgence of the leftist organization GRAPO, despite continuing efforts by Spanish police to eliminate it. GRAPO remains a potential threat to the Spanish Government and could also become a threat to US military facilities or personnel there. [REDACTED] 25X1
- o French authorities banned the leftist anarchist organization Action Directe in 1982, and its activities were subsequently curtailed. There are some signs, however, that the group has been reactivated, and that it has links to other West European--particularly Italian--terrorists. Last fall the group threatened to attack US interests, but so far an attack has not materialized. [REDACTED] 25X1

Threat to Aircraft in Western Europe

3. As you are aware, we have been cooperating with the several other services in an attempt to neutralize the efforts of the 15 May Organization to place a bomb on an El Al or other aircraft. The first such attempt occurred in Athens late last

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case. The FAA has passed a general warning to US carriers, and various other international carriers have become aware of the potential danger to commercial airliners operating out of Western Europe. [REDACTED] 25X1

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[REDACTED] on the threat in any great detail. Operations by this Iraqi-backed group are potentially dangerous for US and other West European aircraft because stringent security precautions around El Al aircraft could encourage the group to attempt to place a bomb on a less well-guarded carrier. [REDACTED] 25X1

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